

# TERRIFIC SLAUGHTER CONTINUES IN FRANCE

## CAPTURE MANY POSITIONS IS TEUTON CLAIM

German Official Statement Says Battle of Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin Has Been Won by Hun Forces

(Republican A. P. Leased Wire)

BERLIN, March 24, (via London).—(British admiralty per Wireless Press).—The Germans have captured Peronne and Ham and defeated British and American regiments brought up from the southwest for a counter attack on Chauny, according to the war office statement today.

The statement adds that more than 30,000 prisoners have been captured and six hundred guns have been taken by the Germans.

Franco-American Reserves?

Victory in the battle which has been raging near Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere is claimed by the Germans. The British third and fourth armies and parts of Franco-American reserves are declared to have been beaten with the heaviest losses on the line from Bapaume to Bouchevignes and behind the Somme between Peronne and Ham, as well as at Chauny.

The text of the communication follows:

"Western theater: The battle near Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere has been won.

"The British third and fourth armies and portions of the Franco-American reserves who had been brought up were beaten, and on the line of Bapaume-Bouchevignes and behind the Somme between Peronne and Ham, as well as at Chauny, were repulsed with the heaviest of losses.

Claim Taking Monchy Heights

"The army of General von Below (Otto) took by storm Monchy height and south thereof carried forward the attack in a westerly direction beyond Wancourt and Henin. It now is engaged in a fight northwest of Bapaume for the third enemy positions. Strong British counter attacks were repulsed.

"The army of General von Dermaur-Witz, following upon the heels of the vanquished enemy, pressed forward in close pursuit Friday night as far as the third enemy position in the Equancourt, Nauris, Templeux, La Fosse, Bernes line.

Junction Effect, Claim

"Early yesterday morning they renewed their attack against the enemy and defeated him, in spite of his desperate defense and continual counter attacks. A junction with the left wing of the attack of General von Below was effected.

"Between Manancourt and Peronne the troops of Generals von Katten and von Götard have forced a crossing over the Tortille sector and on the Somme battlefield are fighting around Bouchevignes. Peronne has fallen. Other divisions have pressed forward to the south thereof as far as the Somme.

"As early as Friday evening the army of General von Hutier, pressing closely forward, took by storm the third enemy position, broke through it and compelled the enemy to retire.

Claim Forces Reach Somme

"In ceaseless pursuit, the corps of General von Luttwitz according to a Berlin dispatch, has sent the following wireless message to the Russian government, respecting the reported statement of the American ambassador to Russia on his attitude toward the ratification of the German-Russian peace:

"The imperial government cherishes the certain expectation that the Russian government will give a quick answer, corresponding with the peace treaty concluded with the central powers, to this statement, which signifies our intention to the resumption of the war against Germany."

David R. Francis, the American ambassador to Russia, issued a statement early in March at Volodga, warning the Russians that a German victory meant the return of monarchical conditions and advising them not to ratify the treaty arranged by Lenin and Trotsky. The congress of the workmen and soldiers' council was at the time meeting at Moscow and had the treaty under consideration.

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## French Praise Resistance of English Army

(Republican A. P. Leased Wire)

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Violent fighting between the British and Germans was continuing at 2:30 o'clock this morning between Croisilles and Tergnier, an official dispatch from Paris today announced.

The dispatch says:

"March 24, 2:30 a. m.—The German offensive is continuing between Croisilles and Tergnier with violent fighting in which the Germans are said to have used 97 divisions. The English resistance is very efficient in everything and the German losses are very heavy. The fighting line is brought back to about six or seven kilometers behind the third line. Confidence remains complete."

## Germans Claim Advantages by Drive For Day

(Republican A. P. Leased Wire)

BERLIN, Via London, March 24.—Paris has been bombed by German long distance guns, according to the German official communication issued tonight.

The statements add that the British in their retirement are burning French towns and villages and that between Somme and the Oise the Germans are still going forward.

Enormous quantities of booty have been taken by the Germans.

"Between the Somme and the Oise our corps are fighting their way forward. Chauny has been taken.

"Our booty in war materials are enormous. The English in their retirement are burning French towns and villages.

"We have bombarded the fortress of Paris with long distance guns."

"A gigantic struggle is taking place for Bapaume. A battle is in progress on the Transloy-Comblès-Maurepas line."

"The Somme has been crossed at many points in our attack between Peronne and Ham."

## Hindenburg Is Well Pleased Over Advance

(Republican A. P. Leased Wire)

AMSTERDAM, March 24.—"Well, your majesty, I think we may be well pleased with the initial success."

Thus the Berlin Tageblatt quotes Field Marshal von Hindenburg as saying to Emperor William when the field marshal received the first telegram concerning the activities on the western front.

Another dispatch from Berlin says the German emperor has received the following telegram from Emperor William:

"I am pleased to be able to tell you that, by the grace of God, the battle of Monchy, Cambrai, St. Quentin and La Fere has been won. The Lord has gloriously aided. May He further help."

## English Admit Withdrawal of Part of Army

(Republican A. P. Leased Wire)

LONDON, March 24.—"North of Peronne," says the official statement tonight from British headquarters in France, "enemy attacks were directed with the greatest violence against the line of the River Tortille, (a tributary of the Somme). Our troops on this portion of the battle front have been withdrawn and are fighting on new positions."

"Further north repeated assaults by large bodies of German infantry have been repulsed with heavy loss to the enemy. In this fighting the seventh and fortieth divisions greatly distinguished themselves, beating off many hostile attacks."

## Million Huns Concentrated In Big Drive

(Republican A. P. Leased Wire)

LONDON, March 24.—Describing the great struggle in France, the Havas correspondent says:

"The British retired in good order, ceding ground foot by foot, to strong positions prepared months ago."

"The later stages of the battle 97 German divisions were engaged. Thus the German command concentrated against the British front half of the forces at their disposal on the whole western front."

Based on 12,000 men to a German division, the number of Germans engaged according to the Havas correspondent, was approximately 1,164,000.

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## GENERAL MARCH KNOWS NOTHING OF HUNS' CLAIMS

No Confirmation of Report Americans Have Been Used as Reserves Back of the British Line Received

(Republican A. P. Leased Wire)

WASHINGTON, March 24.—No confirmation of German reports that American troops have participated in the fight on the British front had reached the war department up to a late hour tonight. Major General General March, acting chief of staff, who remained at his office much of the day and night, said no advice to this effect had been received.

It was recalled that American railway engineers, in training at the British front, were involved in the German counter attack on the Cambrai some months ago, but there has been nothing to indicate that any other than engineer or other special units have been employed at any time with the British forces.

Nothing is Given Out

Officials generally displayed the most eager interest in every item of news as to the German drive. The government may have received some confidential advice from General Pershing on the situation, but General March said nothing was to be given out.

The intense interest in press reports displayed by President Wilson himself indicated that official information was meager. The Associated Press dispatches were transmitted to him during the evening.

The official British and German reports were taken here as showing that a second phase of the great battle had begun and was continued throughout the day with no decisive results. It appeared that the British line in general was still intact at the close of the day.

Settles All Gun Doubts

The announcement from Berlin that Paris had been bombarded by long range guns seemed to settle any doubt there had been as to what transpired in the French capital yesterday and today. The range of the new weapon—74 miles—exceeds anything ever dreamed of by ordnance experts here so far as known.

Whatever the Germans may have discovered in the way of new explosives or new gun metal that permits the use of heavier charge of powder without destruction of the weapon itself, it is noted with satisfaction here that the first employment they have given their war monster has resulted in no military advantage whatever. The damage in Paris on an all-day bombardment was insignificant.

Left to his own choice, a citizen of Paris probably would prefer the new gun to airplane bombs.

Part of town as it looked before this German offensive started. Its capture claimed by Huns. Scene of some of bloodiest fighting so far in great drive.

PERONNE

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## CANADIANS GAS AND BOMBARD ENEMY IN INTENSIVE ATTACKS

(Republican A. P. Leased Wire)

CANADIANS HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Thursday, March 21.—(By Canadian Press).—While German and British troops were struggling far to the south in the opening clash of the spring campaign, the greatest projector gas bombardment of the war was carried out by the Canadians tonight against enemy positions between Lens and Hill No. 70.

Use 5,000 Drums of Gas

At 11 o'clock a signal rocket was sent up. A moment later more than 5,000 drums of lethal gas, simultaneously released from projectors, were hurled into enemy territory from the outskirts of Lens to Cite St. Auguste and Bois de Dix-Huit. From his front lines and strong points, favoring winds carried the poisonous clouds back upon the enemy's dugouts, supports, reserves and assembly areas. The whole front was lit by enemy flares which could be seen through the heavy mist, while the enemy's gas alarm and cries of distress could be heard from the hostile trenches.

Great Bombardment Famous

Nine minutes later the Canadian field artillery, supported by heavy guns and trench mortars, opened up with a bombardment, increasing in violence, until 40 minutes later, the enemy positions were swept with a short, intensive creeping barrage, with raked his forward and rear areas with high explosives.

Heavy Damage Inflicted

Caught by the gas without a moment's warning and caught again as they were emerging from their shelters by gunfire, the Germans' casualties must have been very heavy, for the effectiveness of the gas operations had been emphatically proved by the evidence of prisoners and tonight's bombardment was three times greater than anything of its kind ever attempted by the Canadians on the western front and much greater than anything ever launched by the Germans.

## Complete Accomplishment of All Its Objective Points Claimed by Germany While English Contend All Lines Are Holding Well

(Republican A. P. Leased Wire)

WASHINGTON, March 24.—The British forces along the battle front in France was long ago planned in the event of the Germans attacking in great force. This announcement comes from the British front through the Associated Press correspondent who described the operations of the British army as a masterly withdrawal, made possible by gallant shock troops in

ing never ceased for a moment, and where Field Marshal Haig's men were unable to withstand the terrific onslaughts delivered by greatly superior forces, ground was given, but always in orderly fashion.

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## OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF SITUATION IS TAKEN BY ALLIES

English Expect Hardest of All Fighting Is Yet in Store for Them—Withdrawals in Good Order

(Republican A. P. Leased Wire)

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, March 24.—(By the Associated Press).—The British and French, who co-operate at the junction of the two armies, were viewing the trend of the German offensive with optimistic eyes this morning. Had fighting been in progress, but the latest reports showed little or no change in the situation in favor of the enemy since yesterday, while on the other hand the defenders had rushed the attacking forces back after a bitter struggle and were holding strongly along the whole new front to which they had withdrawn.

Desperate Fighting Continues

Fighting of a most desperate nature has been continuous since the initial attack, but so far the British have used few troops other than those which were holding the front lines. These troops have been making as gallant a defense as was ever recorded in the annals of the British army as a result they have enabled the main body of the forces to fall back deliberately and without confusion and occupy positions which had been prepared long before the German offensive began.

Germans Hurl Vast Hordes

The Germans on the other hand, operating under the eyes of the emperor and the crown prince, have been hurling vast hordes into the fray with utter disregard for lives and have followed into the abandoned positions getting farther and farther away from their supplies and finding their communications increasingly difficult.

More than 50 German divisions already have been identified by actual contact, and many of these men were simply given two days